

Application No. 09/887,553

Reply to Office action of January 29, 2004

REMARKS

By this amendment, Applicants have amended the specification to update the status of a referenced patent. Furthermore, Applicants have canceled claims 3-18 and 21 and have added new claims 22-32. No new matter is added by these amendments. Applicants respectfully submit that all of the Examiner's grounds for rejection have now been addressed and therefore request the Examiner to pass the pending claims to allowance.

Rejection of claims 3 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 3 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rudell in view of Samiran and Lee. Applicants have canceled claims 3 and 18, thereby rendering the rejections moot.

Rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejects claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oh in view of Lee and Woodall. Applicants have canceled claim 4, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

Rejection of claims 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejects claims 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicants have canceled claims 10-12, thereby rendering the rejections moot.

Rejection of claims 5, 14, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejects claims 5, 14, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oh in view of Lee and Woodall and further in view of Samarin. Applicants have canceled claims 5, 14, 15 and 16, thereby rendering the rejections moot.

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Rejection of claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejects claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herman in view of Lee and Samarin. Applicants have canceled claim 21, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's determination that claims 1, 2, 6-9, 13 and 17 recite allowable subject matter. Applicants have rewritten allowable claim 7 in independent form as new claim 22, which includes all of the limitations of the base claim (claim 4). Applicants have rewritten allowable claim 9 in independent form as new claim 29, which includes all of the limitations of the base claim (claim 4). Applicants have rewritten allowable claim 13 in independent form as new claim 30, which includes all of the limitations of the base claim (claim 4). Applicants have rewritten allowable claim 17 as new claim 31, which includes all of the limitation of the base claim (claim 14) and the intervening claim (claim 16).

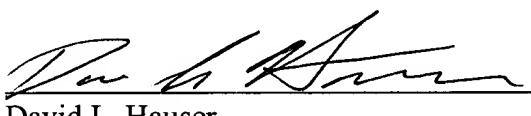
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CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, Applicants earnestly believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues remaining or require further clarification, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

Respectfully submitted,
KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: April 29, 2004

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